

Shopkeeper Thanks America for New Life



Photo by USAID

"Those of us who had to run are coming back, and we see this new market you have helped us start and we feel hopeful. As long as America is with us, we will start our new lives."

**Afghan Shopkeeper
Shahidan Market
Bamiyan Province**

This man is a shopkeeper in the Shahidan Market which was razed by the Taliban as they fled the region in late 2001. What remained were rows of burned-out business stalls. USAID helped to breath new life into the bazaar through the provision of materials and labor for rebuilding the market. Just a few months later, these newly-opened shops were full of brightly colored scarves, plastic boots, sweaters from Pakistan, and batteries from Iran. The president of the business association reports that 50 stalls have been opened recently and he believes that more merchants will return once spring arrives. He is one of many here expressing appreciation for the assistance of the United States.

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